

## CITY OF LEON VALLEY



### **Citizens Police Advisory Committee Meeting** Leon Valley City Council Chambers 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas 78238 Thursday, March 23, 2017

#### **MINUTES**

The Citizens Police Advisory Committee of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 23rd day of March, 2017 at 5:36 p.m. in the Leon Valley City Hall located at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas for the purpose of the following business:

#### **Call to Order**

Board Chairperson Marianna Sanchez called the meeting to order. A roll call was accomplished at 1737, with the following in attendance:

The minutes reflect that the following Members of the Police Department Citizens Advisory Committee were present: Chairperson Marianna Sanchez, Vice Chairperson Charles Hawsey, Councilman Benny Martinez, Chief Joseph Salvaggio, Assistant Chief Ruben Saucedo, Heather Riddle, Susan Hillje, Lelani Mercado, Richard Blackmore, Byron Woodworth, Karen Seiffert. Kim Crawford, Donna Charles, and Jesse Barrera. Amy Augustyniak, Mark Guerra and Councilman David Jordan were not present.

Board Chairperson Marianna Sanchez asked for a review of the meeting minutes. Mrs. Charles proposed a motion for the meeting minutes to be accepted. The vote was seconded by Mr. Hawsey. A vote was taken to accept the meeting minutes as written. All board member voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

The board discussed the following programs as listed on the agenda:

- A. Neighborhood Watch: A discussion ensued on starting Neighborhood Watch programs in the City of Leon Valley. Four neighborhoods requested to be the first to begin: Grass Valley, Shadow Mist, The Ridge, and the Hodges/Athena area. To date, the Shadow Mist, Grass Valley, and Hodges have conducted their initial neighborhood watch meetings. Signs have been ordered and we are awaiting deliver on them at this time. The Ridge Neighborhood has a meeting set for April 4, 2017 to discuss them joining in as a neighborhood watch program. Mr. Barrera stated he is working with his neighbors to get them to a meeting to start the program in his neighborhood. Mrs. Mercado praised her neighborhood watch officer (Yarbrough) and explain the use of the GroupMe App to keep everyone in touch. **ACTION:** Officer will continue working with the listed neighborhoods and the City will begin installing the signs upon delivery.
- B. Utilization of Social Media- Mrs. Sanchez reported that the City of Leon Valley residents only Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/leonvalley](http://www.facebook.com/groups/leonvalley) was in use. Chief Salvaggio let everyone know that Police, Fire and City Hall are still utilizing Facebook and Next Door to release information. Mrs. Sanchez praised Officer Andy Griego as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for his social media release about burglary of vehicle prevention. **ACTION:** No further action required on this one. Committee decided to close this as an agenda item.
- C. Citizen Police Academy- The Academy began on February 9, 2017. The Academy ran for six weeks, ending on Thursday, March 16, 2017 The board members whom went to the first class were very pleased with the first class, describing it as amazing, interesting, interactive, and that they learned a lot. They



praised Corporal Farias for his work (and food) and enjoyed all classes. We discussed the ride along process for the graduates and board members. **ACTION:** Set next class date and review class critiques..

- D. Neighborhood Officer Assignments: Neighborhood Officer assignments remain the same. Officers will only be changed out if they are new and need to replace an officer who left. **ACTION:** Report any changes in assignments to the board members and neighborhood watch programs.
- E. Traffic Calming Measures on Bandera: A discussion on utilizing traffic calming measures on Bandera Road occurred at the Town Hall meeting. Chief Salvaggio reported he gave a presentation to the residents and city officials on the recommendation from the Board. A vote was taken and 83% of the participants voted to install red cameras. Chief Salvaggio stated the City Manager will want the proposal in front of Council as soon as possible. **ACTION:** Provide a presentation and recommendation to Council.
- F. Town Hall Meeting: Meeting in January went very well. Votes were taken on the Red-Light Cameras and Reduction of Speed Limits City Wide. The Red-Light Camera passed, but the changes of speed limits city wide did not. There was some concern on the verbiage used at the Town Hall, which will be discussed with the organizer. **ACTION:** No further action required on this one. Committee decided to close this as an agenda item.
- G. Lock It or Lose It Campaign: Looking at different slogans that have been used. Sgt. Gonzales recommended, "If you don't want it stolen, Lock Your Car." The board liked, "Lock It, Hide it, Keep It Safe." More discussion needs to be considered, but everyone agreed we should print stickers, flyers, and signs throughout the City. It was also suggested signs at the entrance to neighborhoods, and that we add videos on FaceBook and Next Door. **ACTION:** Continue to develop program.
- H. Red Light Camera: Committee discussed the Bill that is current in the Texas Legislature concerning abolishing red light cameras in Texas. Chief Salvaggio explained the current status of the red light camera installation. He stated the City is working with a contractor and will be bringing a contract back to City Council in the near future. Mr. Blackmore asked if the citizens will get to vote on the addition of the cameras. Chief Salvaggio explained that the communities input was received from the recommendations of this board, as well as the vote during the Town Hall meeting. He also explained that it would be voted on at City Council before it goes final. **ACTION:** Continue to work with the vendor to provide a contract for review to City Council.
- I. Town Hall Meeting; The actions discussed during the Town hall meeting have been closed out. **ACTION:** No further action required on this one. Committee decided to close this as an agenda item.
- J. Burglary Vehicle Prevention Campaign: The committee discussed seven different programs in use in other cities across the Country. The committee reviewed voted on a sign that states, "Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys, Hide Belongings". The sign is Red, Black and Yellow in color. **ACTION:** order signs and print out literature for a campaign before summer.
- K. Child SWAP/Social Media Implementation: Chief Salvaggio discussed that the cameras have been ordered and are awaiting installation. He discussed the call box that would also be put in, as well as the signs that will point towards the designated area. The committee asked where the phone will call. Chief Salvaggio stated it hasn't been decided yet. **ACTION:** Work with the vendor to install the cameras and call box. Order the signs and install them in the designated area.
- L. New Equipment Purchases: Chief Salvaggio explained what equipment has been ordered with Asset Forfeiture Funds, and how the department will become better and more efficient. He explained that \$496,000 in seizure monies were expended, resulting in zero cost to the Leon Valley citizens. **ACTION:** No further discussion on this items is required.



M. A discussion occurred over last month's neighborhood concerns:

1. Parking on Chaparral Street by truck blocking roadway. Ticketing and monitoring occurred.
2. Abandoned car in driveway at 7524 Link Meadow: Sent certified letter ordering it removed.
3. Lack of sidewalks and sidewalks not ADA compliant; Meeting with TxDOT and City
4. Construction on property behind Hodges Street: Working with contractor to move
5. Wrong Way Drivers on Hodges after 5: Ticketing, Monitoring and leaving signs up until further notice
6. Business being run out of house at corner of Hodges and Bandera: Owner cited and ordered to comply with zoning.

N. New Items Discussed

1. Impound Lot added to Leon valley: Chief Salvaggio discussed adding an impound lot to the City of Leon Valley Police Department. The impound lot would take in all vehicles that were towed as abandoned, prisoner, or for code violations. All wrecked vehicles would continue to go to the contract wrecker yard. Chief Salvaggio stated they were working on a location and the reasons behind the City wanting to go this route. All board members agreed it is a good thing to explore. ACTION: Continue looking for a location and develop an impound lot program within the City of Leon Valley.
2. Pastoral Council: The Police Department has begun reaching out to the local faith based organizations in hopes of partnering with them on future social issues in the community. The Chief has visited one church thus far, and will be working to meet with all of them in the future.
3. Police Grants: Chief Salvaggio explained the process the police department took in applying for state grants. The department was recently awarded two grants for approximately \$75,000 for additional body cameras, reporting messaging systems, and technology upgrades.
4. Abandoned Houses: Chief Salvaggio explained they are gathering information on abandoned houses in the neighborhoods. He explained that they are meeting bi-weekly to discuss neighborhood issues, and are keeping a watch on abandoned homes. He urged all neighborhood leaders to report any abandoned homes to their neighborhood officers.

O. Citizen's Concerns (New):

1. Contractors using second entrance on Jeff Loop
2. Discussion on the Black Lives Matter Group
3. People peeking over fences in Grass Valley neighborhood
4. Deer population getting bad and causing accidents
5. Pet tag process in Community Development
6. Sidewalk at 7477 Linkwood not to code
7. Lack of speed limit signs in Linkwood Neighborhood
8. Concerns on people not getting permits
9. Car repair locations not within code along Bandera Road
10. Testing cars on El Verde Road from car repair locations near by
11. Bandit Signs throughout Leon Valley—efforts are noticeable
12. Junk car parked on El Verde Road

**Adjournment**

The next meeting was set for April 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Chairperson Marianna Sanchez announced the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The motion was made by Mrs. Charles, and seconded by Mrs. Hillje.

APPROVED:

  
Marianna Sanchez  
Chairperson